



## **CITY OF HAYWARD**

### **AGENDA REPORT**

AGENDA DATE 05/28/02

AGENDA ITEM 8

WORK SESSION ITEM           

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Enhanced Drug Enforcement Efforts

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council accept this report.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

During the last year the Police Department has continued efforts to suppress gang related violence in the City of Hayward. To accomplish this it was necessary to utilize resources from the Narcotics Bureau to increase personnel designated to exclusively address gang problems. This strategy has been very effective in reducing gang related incidents; however, into the void neighborhood drug activity and violence has increased.

Much of the recent violence in Hayward is directly linked to drugs. A pattern of incident-retaliation has emerged, which is very similar to that of the of gang violence experienced early in 2001. For example:

- On April 1, 2002, a Hayward resident was shot to death in the Vermont Plaza Shopping Center's parking lot located at "B" and Vermont Streets. This was directly linked to the highly publicized Oakland drug wars. Among the significant drug related problems documented citywide, frequent complaints come from Dixon, Forselles and the surrounding area, South Garden and the upper "B" Street area.
- On April 14, 2002 a man attempting to purchase drugs near Huntwood and Tennyson was shot two times in the chest. The man is expected to survive, as the bullets narrowly missed his heart.
- On April 22, 2002 gunfire erupted several times, first on "B" Street and later on South Garden Ave. Although this involved gang members, the impetus for this violence appears to be drug related.

- On April 25, 2002 two additional drug related shootings occurred. On Huntwood Ave. a man was shot in the face in a conflict over drugs. Later that same evening, in a separate incident, a man was shot twice in the chest in a carjacking that also had drug implications. While both men survived, the injuries they sustained were very serious.

## **POLICE PLAN:**

As with most serious issues, our response requires short and long-term strategies that will include the Police Department, the community, and outside agencies and resources. It is anticipated that increasing resources and implementing strategies similar to those employed to address recent gang problems would yield positive results. The following are several elements of our immediate plan:

1. **Enforcement:** Enforcement is an essential element of both the short and long term solutions. Street level drug enforcement coupled with high police visibility is needed immediately to stop the violence. The enforcement must be focused and consistent, very similar to the strategy recently utilized to address the gang problem.

Officers will first be directed to focus their enforcement efforts in the upper "B" Street area. Those involved in illegal drug activity will be identified and a zero tolerance approach will be strongly supported. The Police Department will also work closely with the District Attorney's Office to seek prosecution to the fullest extent. Additionally, assistance from the Alameda County Narcotics Task Force will be solicited to assist with enforcement efforts. As problems are curtailed in this area, enforcement efforts will be broadened to include South Garden, Forselles, Dixon and other problem areas that may arise.

2. **Greater Police Presence in Neighborhoods:** The police will provide very high visibility in drug-troubled neighborhoods. There are current plans to repaint and remodel the police motor home in a similar design to the patrol cars, so it can be easily identified as a police vehicle in the neighborhoods.

The motor home will first be stationed in the area of the Vermont Plaza Shopping Center and will be used similarly to the other established police resource centers. The motor home will create a police sub station type environment that will provide an atmosphere likely to discourage drug activity in the neighborhood. The motor home will provide easy access to the police for reporting and other purposes and will create a feeling of safety in the neighborhood.

The motor home will later be moved to other troubled neighborhoods such as South Garden, Forselles, and Dixon Street. Additionally, beat officers will be directed to provide high visibility in these areas 24 hours a day.

3. **Community Awareness and Involvement:** Community meetings will be held in drug-plagued neighborhoods. These meetings will be designed to create an awareness of the gravity of the drug problem and to solicit assistance from those living in the

neighborhoods. Training will be provided to assist community members in identifying drug activity and who to contact when they suspect drug dealing is occurring in their neighborhood. Residents in these neighborhoods will be strongly encouraged to participate in an upcoming "Community Collaborative."

4. **Gun Exchange:** The Hayward Police Department will work closely with "Crime Stoppers," "Neighborhood Alert" and the Alameda County Sheriff's Department to organize a gun exchange. The gun exchange held last year was very effective and resulted in more than 200 guns being removed from the streets of Hayward. If possible this gun exchange will be held at the Vermont Plaza Shopping Center.

The long-term solution to this problem involves reestablishing a Narcotics Bureau. The Police Department is seeking grant funding from the Department of Justice's "COPS Universal Hiring Program" (UHP) that will partially fund two police officer positions. The Police Department will be addressing the matching funds required for this grant, as well as funding needed to upgrade one police officer to a Sergeant in the upcoming budget. These two officers and a sergeant will serve as an excellent starting point for reestablishing a Narcotics Bureau.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

- The remodeling of the police motor home will be accomplished utilizing existing budget and grant funding that has already been earmarked for the project.
- It is anticipated that "Crime Stoppers" and "Neighborhood Alert" will assist in sponsoring the Gun Exchange. "Crime Stoppers" has contributed as much as \$10,000 to support this event in the past.
- Matching funds for the UHP Grant and the additional funding necessary to upgrade one officer position to Sergeant will be addressed in the upcoming budget.
- It should be noted that a Narcotics Bureau would generate some funding from asset forfeitures, which would partially offset expenditures needed to implement the long-term plan. Although asset forfeitures are very difficult to predict, conservative estimates based on past experience indicate that at least \$50,000 could be recovered annually.

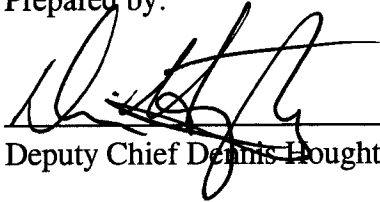
#### **CONCLUSION:**

It is necessary to implement both short-term and long-term strategies to address drugs and drug related violence in our neighborhoods. Short-term strategies must be implemented immediately to stop the cycle of violence that has begun. It is also very important to quickly develop and implement long-term strategies. The cornerstone of our long-term strategy will be the reestablishment of a Narcotics Bureau.

It is very obvious that reassigning additional personnel to address serious problems has been very effective in the past; however, it often leaves a void that causes other problems to surface.

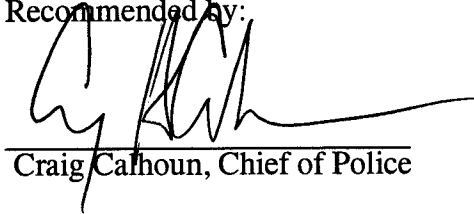
We anticipate that increasing personnel to address drug problems would yield positive results, very similar to those achieved recently when dealing with serious gang problems. Seeking grant funding from the Department of Justice's "COPS Universal Hiring Program," will be a significant step in reestablishing a Narcotics Bureau and addressing drug problems in the City of Hayward.

Prepared by:

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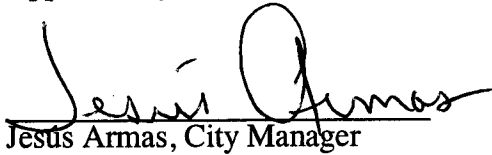
Deputy Chief Dennis Houghtelling

Recommended by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Calhoun", written over a horizontal line.

Craig Calhoun, Chief of Police

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesus Armas", written over a horizontal line.

Jesus Armas, City Manager